eBook

InfinityQS®

Quality Re-imagined

Selection Guide:
Quality Management Software

"Outside finance, there is no one business discipline that touches and impacts more organizational functions than quality."

Gartner Research, Hype Cycle Of Consumer Goods, 24 July 2012, Analysis By: Simon F Jacobson; Ray Barger Jr.

Manufacturing invokes a heritage of quality, but today's environment demands a proactive approach to controlling inconsistencies as a competitive advantage.

Manufacturing's continued success depends on a commitment to focus on customer needs, to deliver the needed product consistently, and to drive continuous product improvements.

Bringing real-time manufacturing data from multiple sources into a single, unified repository, enables manufacturers to actualize the reports and analytics they need to drive smarter decision-making—and better control the quality, consistency, and cost of producing their goods.

Today's manufacturing environment demands a proactive approach to controlling inconsistencies. Past approaches—such as the common mixture of databases, spreadsheets, and paper—failed to provide the appropriate support. Without a systemized approach to quality, manufacturers not only incur increasing production costs, but lack visibility into the root cause of problems.

A unified data repository acts as the overarching architectural platform to manage all aspects of quality— the consistency of processes, data collection, and information sharing needed to meet customer and regulatory demands. The InfinityQS® Statistical Process Control (SPC) engine acts as the intelligence center for the entire operation.

On the plant floor, operators instantly see problems in processes and can react. Managers and Analysts can compare and contrast different variables to continuously improve processes. Executive management gains the visibility to understand areas of concern and opportunity.

After more than two decades of working with the world's top manufacturers across industries, InfinityQS has developed a complete end-to-end software platform to enable a systematic approach to quality management. This guide summarizes InfinityQS' years of experience and understanding of what top-performing manufacturers and their suppliers require on their shop floors and in their offices.

Use this guide as a basis for your selection. If you have questions about how something may work in your environment or to engage the InfinityQS team to help you, please call 800-772-7978 or email sales@infinityqs.com.

Checklist

Successful manufacturers partner with their vendors. This checklist represents the key elements needed in any Quality Intelligence system to ensure rapid and efficient improvements in capacity, delivery time, and quality.

Management Requirements

› Trusted world-class vendor for 20+ years

› Direct industry experience

› Superior reputation and award-winning software

› Real-time management reports and dashboard views

› Turnkey implementation

› Deployment by Industrial Statisticians and Certified Quality Engineers

› Training available onsite or at InfinityQS HQ

› Corporate standardization

› Organizational real-time dashboards

› Existing systems integration (including ERP systems like SAP, MES software, CMMs, and others)

› Dynamic document linking for a paperless shop floor

› Mobile friendly real-time reporting and dashboard solution

Quality Team Requirements

› Automatic instant alarms and email notifications

› Unlimited data sorting and combining

› Choose from over 300 different control charts

› Data Collection from virtually any source including gauges, multiplexers, CMMs, ERP, and MES software

› Real-time data collection

› Multiple parts on chart view

› Within piece variation analysis

› Multiple features on charts

› Assignable cause/corrective action

› Dashboard views of quality events and control charts

› Automated event tracking, data collection reminders, and email/SMS alerts
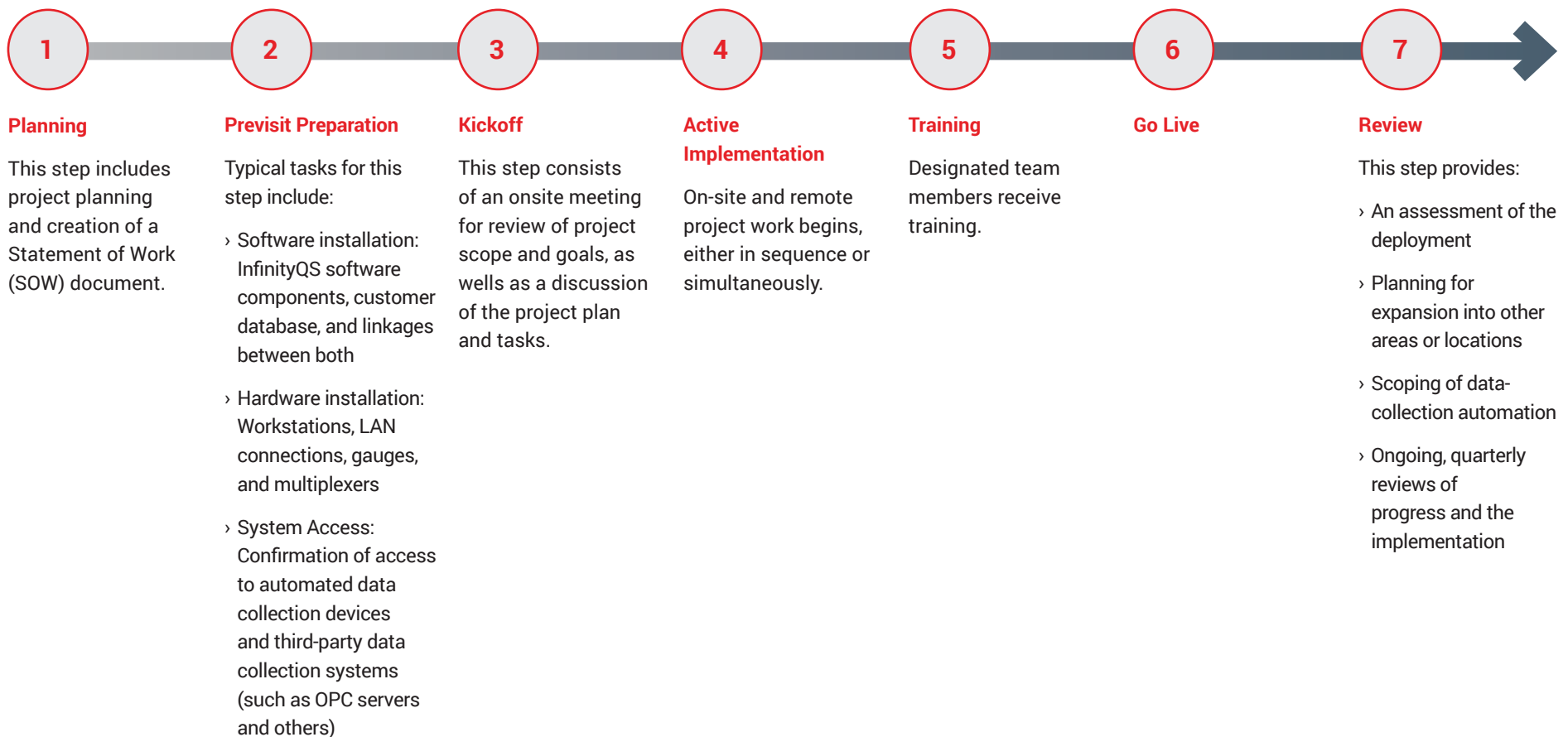
Shop Floor Operators Requirements

› Simple, clean interface designed for the shop floor

› Touch screen and shop floor modes

› Minimal computer or software knowledge required

› Quick view of reports and analysis

› Large easy-to-read toolbar buttons

› Real-time capability display

› Data entry and alarm notification

› Full-screen gauge reading

› Multi-language support with login-based settings

IT Specialists Requirements

› Single configuration for hundreds of parts, machine tools

› All data resides in a centralized database

› Open-architecture/non-proprietary database

› Stand-alone, WAN, or Citrix services

› Integrates with any SMTP email system

› No archaic data files to create, juggle, or organize

› Automated HTML web scheduling and publishing

› Industry standard interfaces

› Advanced security features

› SaaS, on-premises, or hybrid deployment models

What Would a Deployment Look Like?

The InfinityQS rapid approach to implementation ensures that in less than five business days, customers begin realizing the benefits of their quality initiative. The experience from 40,000 licenses all over the world translates into successful implementations regardless of the constraints of the deployment timeline, industry regulations, or business goals.

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Planning

This step includes project planning and creation of a Statement of Work (SOW) document.

Previsit Preparation

Typical tasks for this step include:

› Software installation: InfinityQS software components, customer database, and linkages between both

› Hardware installation: Workstations, LAN connections, gauges, and multiplexers

› System Access: Confirmation of access to automated data collection devices and third-party data collection systems (such as OPC servers and others)

Kickoff

This step consists of an onsite meeting for review of project scope and goals, as wells as a discussion of the project plan and tasks.

Active Implementation

On-site and remote project work begins, either in sequence or simultaneously.

Training

Designated team members receive training.

Go Live

Review

This step provides:

› An assessment of the deployment

› Planning for expansion into other areas or locations

› Scoping of data-collection automation

› Ongoing, quarterly reviews of progress and the implementation

How a Centralized Data Repository Helps

Take control of quality with real-time visibility from the shop floor, across the enterprise, and even into the supply chain.

The data repository provides a centralized quality management solution for the entire organization.

Snak King saved over $1 million on overfill costs and lowered customer complaints by more than 30% in the first year of their deployment. Snak King uses InfinityQS' ProFicient™ to manage five core areas of quality control with a single system: data collection and integration; real-time monitoring and analysis; workflow management; advanced reporting; and the SPC Quality Hub.

"The implementation of InfinityQS ProFicient is creating visibility across our global manufacturing base and elevating the level of trust in the data. This work helps us identify opportunities, improve process variations, and control raw material use, as we continue to uphold General Cable's commitment to produce quality products for our customers," says Zack Tran, Project Manager at General Cable.

In one plant, Cooper Tires realized $400,000 in annual savings on the belt line by analyzing the dimensional data of components. These cost savings represent just one line in one plant. In addition to cost savings, Cooper Tires also made substantial improvements in its process performance index. With the InfinityQS solution, Cooper Tires is systematically driving process improvements that ensure the optimal quality levels that consumers have come to expect from the Cooper Tires brand.

Baldor reported 66% annual dollar savings from reduced scrap for internal customers and 63% annual dollar savings from reduced scrap in InfinityQS work centers. The figures added up to a 13% reduction in overall scrap costs. The company's customers are on the winning end of the quality improvements as Baldor reports a 48% reduction in warranty claims.

"By investing in and implementing InfinityQS, we have already seen immense benefits. The software has allowed us to attain a ROI much more rapidly than if we had put in the time and money to customize our MES to do something that it was never originally designed to do," said Didier Chavet, Regional CIO for APAC at SanDisk.

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About InfinityQS International, Inc.

InfinityQS International, Inc. is the global authority on data-driven manufacturing quality. The company's Manufacturing and Quality Intelligence solutions deliver unparalleled visibility across the enterprise, from the shop floor to the boardroom, enabling manufacturers to Re-imagine Quality and transform it from a problem into a competitive advantage. Powered by centralized statistical process control (SPC) analytics, InfinityQS solutions provide operational insight to enable global manufacturers to improve product quality; decrease costs and risk; maintain or improve compliance; and make strategic, data-driven business decisions. Headquartered near Washington, D.C., with offices in Seattle, London, and Beijing, InfinityQS was founded in 1989 and now services more than 2,500 of the world's leading manufacturers, including Ball Corporation, Boston Scientific, Graham Packaging, and Medtronic. For more information, visit infinityqs.com.

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